

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 1-13 and 21.

Amend Claim 14 as set forth below:

1.-13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A method of handling a workpiece, comprising:

(a) providing a workpiece having a first configuration;
(b) mounting the workpiece on a fixture;
(c) processing the workpiece while the workpiece is mounted to the fixture;
(d) cutting the workpiece into pieces that remain mounted to the fixture and in the first configuration;

(e) articulating the fixture such that the pieces are oriented in a second configuration;
(f) positioning the pieces in receptacles that are arranged in the second configuration
and inverting the fixture with the pieces attached in order to position the pieces in the receptacles; and then

(g) dismounting the pieces from the fixture such that the pieces remain in the receptacles
and retaining the pieces in the receptacles with the fixture while the pieces are being dismounted from the fixture.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein step (a) comprises configuring the workpiece in an elongated row, and step (e) comprises rearranging the elongated row by spreading the pieces apart.

16. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein step (b) comprises bonding the workpiece to the fixture.

17. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein step (a) comprises providing the workpiece as a slider row, and step (d) comprises cutting the slider row into individual sliders.

18. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein step (b) comprises mounting the workpiece to a plurality of aligned platforms, and step (e) comprises misaligning the platforms such that the pieces are further spaced apart from each other.

19. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein step (f) comprises placing the pieces in an inspection tray.

20. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein step (g) comprises debonding the pieces from the fixture.

21. (canceled)

22. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein steps (e)-(g) comprise automatically transferring the pieces to the receptacles without manual handling.

23. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the pieces are co-planar in both the first and second configurations.

Add the following new claims:

24. (new) A method of handling a workpiece, comprising:

- (a) providing a workpiece having a first configuration;
- (b) mounting the workpiece to a fixture comprising a plurality of aligned platforms;
- (c) processing the workpiece while the workpiece is mounted to the fixture;
- (d) cutting the workpiece into pieces that remain mounted to the fixture and in the first configuration;
- (e) articulating the fixture to orient the pieces in a second configuration by misaligning the platforms such that the pieces are further spaced apart from each other;
- (f) positioning the pieces in receptacles that are arranged in the second configuration; and then
- (g) dismounting the pieces from the fixture such that the pieces remain in the receptacles.

25. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein step (a) comprises configuring the workpiece in an elongated row, and step (e) comprises rearranging the elongated row by spreading the pieces apart.

26. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein step (b) comprises bonding the workpiece to the fixture.
27. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein step (a) comprises providing the workpiece as a slider row, and step (d) comprises cutting the slider row into individual sliders.
28. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein step (f) comprises placing the pieces in an inspection tray.
29. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein step (g) comprises debonding the pieces from the fixture.
30. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein steps (e)-(g) comprise automatically transferring the pieces to the receptacles without manual handling.
31. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein the pieces are co-planar in both the first and second configurations.